

**FORM C – OBJECT**

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

49/4	Boston North	AC, AH, B	926
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Lexington

**Place** (*neighborhood or village*): Lexington Green

**Photograph**



**Address or Location:** Bedford Street

**Name:** Lexington Minute Men of 1775 Memorial

**Ownership:**  Public     Private

**Type of Object** (*check one*):

- statue
- monument
- bust
- milestone
- group composition
- marker
- religious shrine
- boundary marker
- other (*specify*)

**Date of Construction:** 1948

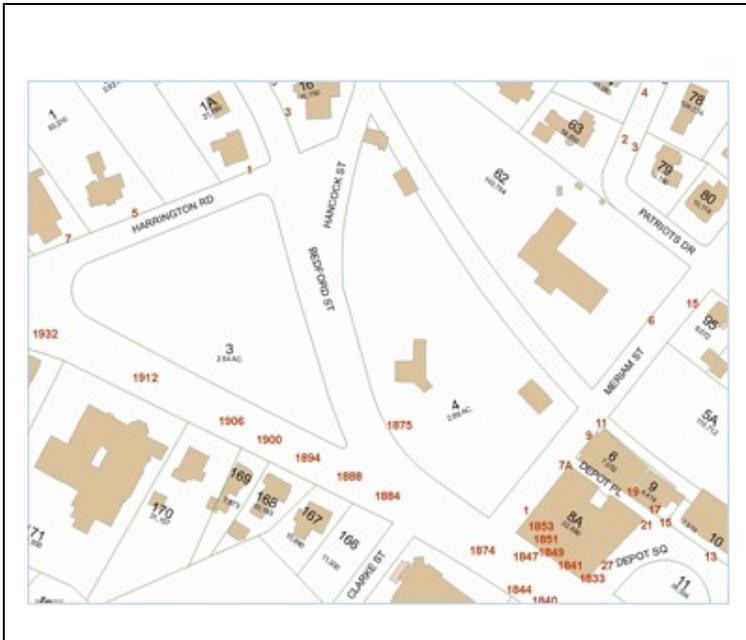
**Source:** Hinkle & Cleghorn, p. 19

**Designer/Sculptor:** Bashka Paeff

**Materials:** granite, bronze

**Alterations** (*with dates*): none

**Topographic or Assessor's Map**



**Condition:** good

**Moved:**  no     yes    **Date**

**Acreage:** NA

**Setting:** lawn in front of Buckman Tavern

**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): Oct. 2009

# INVENTORY FORM C CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

BEDFORD STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

B

926

\_\_\_ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

## DESIGN ASSESSMENT

*Describe the design features of the object and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.*

Roughly oval bronze relief measuring approximately 3' x 6' x 1' depicting six Minute Men in the heat of battle at the Battle of Lexington. Five are shown firing their rifles in various positions – crouching, kneeling and standing. The sixth soldier appears to be wounded; he is slumped over and seated on the ground. The sculpture has a granite back and is set on a set of three low granite steps resting on a granite base.

The monument is surrounded by a simple iron fence.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain the history of the object and how it relates to the development of the community.*

This bas relief was the work of sculptress Bashka Paeff. Roessler & Sons of Woburn was the founder. The sculpture was unveiled on April 19, 1949 by Nancy Harrington, a lineal descendant of an original Lexington militiaman. Also present was the sculptress.

Bashka Paeff (1874-1979) was an American sculptor active in the Boston area. She was born in Minsk, Russia but immigrated to the United States as an infant. In 1914 she attended the School of the Museum of Fine Arts where she studied with Bela Pratt. She later worked at the MacDowell Colony. Among her other works is the Maine Sailors and Soldiers Memorial on Route 1 crossing from Portsmouth, New Hampshire into Kittery, Maine; a fountain sculpture of a small boy with bird at the Boston Public Garden (Arlington Street entrance), and a bas relief of Ellen Swallow Richards at MIT.

## ENTIRE INSCRIPTION (if applicable):

Front:

THESE MEN GAVE EVERYTHING DEAR IN LIFE YEA AND LIFE ITSELF IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMON CAUSE  
MEMORIAL TO THE LEXINGTON MINUTE MEN OF 1775

Back:

MEMORIAL  
TO THE LEXINGTON MINUTE MEN WHO WERE  
ON THE GREEN IN THE EARLY MORNING ENGAGEMENT  
APRIL 19, 1775

(Names of 12 officers and 68 men)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:

Hinkle, Alice and Andrea Cleghorn. *Life in Lexington: 1946-1995*. Lexington: 1996, p. 19.

Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS). <http://siris-artinventories.si.edu>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashka\\_Paeff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashka_Paeff)